

C1385.01M

Claims

1. A spectral discrimination apparatus for use in a scanning optical microscope, the spectral discrimination apparatus comprising light dispersive means and frequency selective means including a rotatable disc-like member or members positioned in an aperture plane after the dispersive means, the member or members being shaped in a form which, on rotation of the member or members, selectively blocks or transmits light in order to control the frequency of light transmitted by the apparatus.
2. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a detector for receiving light from the frequency selective means.
3. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the or each rotatable member has opaque and transmissive regions, with one or more light-transmitting apertures in an otherwise opaque rotatable member.
4. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the or each rotatable member has a shaped outer periphery to control the passage of light past the rotatable member.
5. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein a pair of rotatable members is employed, rotated about the same axis, or about spaced parallel axes, the members cooperating together to provide the required light blocking and transmission.
6. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the, or each, rotatable member can be continuously rotated or rotated in a step-wise fashion between indexed positions.
7. A spectral discrimination apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein rotation of the, or each, rotatable member causes a particular waveband or wavebands